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Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services

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Extensions of country programmes

Summary

The present note contains information on the extensions of UNFPA country programmes. First-time extensions of country programmes up to one year are approved by the Executive Director, and presented to the Executive Board for information. All other requests for extensions of country programmes are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the six-month extension of the country programme for Ethiopia and the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for Brazil, Burkina Faso, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Mozambique and Ukraine, as presented in table 1.

The Executive Board may wish to approve the second, one-year extension of the country programme for Côte d'Ivoire, as presented in table 2.

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Table 1

Extensions of country programmes approved by the Executive Director

Country	*Original programme period*	*Period approved for extension*	*Reason for extension*
Brazil	2012-2015	2016	Following general elections in October 2014, the United Nations country team (UNCT) began planning for the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) cycle. The Government of Brazil and the UNCT agreed to extend the current UNDAF by one year, through 2016, to align it with the national planning cycle. UNFPA will focus support on (a) reduction of vulnerabilities and disparities, especially among people with disabilities, Afro-descendants and indigenous people, youth and most-at-risk populations; (b) advocating for sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and reproductive rights; (c) expanding South-South cooperation; (d) promoting local ownership by using participatory approaches to programme development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; (e) strengthening and building strategic partnerships with key research and academic institutions to collect and disseminate reliable, comparable and disaggregated data; and (f) promoting the interlinkages between population and sustainable development
Burkina Faso	2011-2015	2016	The Government of Burkina Faso and the UNCT agreed to extend the current UNDAF for one year, through 2016, in order to align the next UNDAF with national development planning cycles and to better respond to national priorities and ensure national mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation. UNFPA will focus support on (a) access to integrated maternal and neonatal health services; (b) family planning services for vulnerable women and youth, including in humanitarian settings; (c) national capacities for youth-friendly services on sexual and reproductive health services and HIV prevention; (iv) strengthened national legal framework to address gender equality, gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive rights; (v) national and regional capacities to collect, use and disseminate quality statistical data for the integration of population dynamics, reproductive health, youth and gender equality in development policies and programmes.
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2011-2015	2016	The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is facing United Nations and international sanctions. The closure of banking channels for international cash transfers has affected the programme delivery of the United Nations agencies, they have been facing difficulties to transfer funds for their humanitarian and development operations since 2013. Local cash payment for services is a major issue for the United Nations agencies and procurement of certain essentials for the programmes is difficult due to the sanctions. This has resulted in prioritization of some programme activities and suspension of others to reduce operational expenditures in the country. The UNCT requested to extend the United Nations Strategic Framework, 2011-2015 by one year, through 2016. The Government has endorsed the request and agreed to the extension of the associated country programmes. A one-year extension of the UNFPA country programme will allow for harmonization with other agencies and the United Nations Strategic Framework.
Ethiopia	2012-2015	January - June 2016 (six months)	The Government of Ethiopia and the UNCT agreed to extend the current UNDAF for six months, to June 2016, to align it with the Ethiopia fiscal calendar and the Government planning cycle. The current Growth and Transformation Plan is ending, and the Government is currently preparing the next plan, covering the period 2015/2016–2019/2020, which will start in July 2016. UNFPA will focus support on (a) preparation of the Demographic and Health Survey in 2016 and the population and housing census, planned for 2017; (b) population situation analysis for advocacy and policy dialogue; (c) strengthening reproductive health commodity security coordination mechanisms and increasing the capacity for family planning; (d) improving maternal health through interventions focused on preventing and treating obstetric fistula, and emergency obstetric and neonatal care; (e) advocating for incorporation of the SRH needs of adolescents and youth in national laws, policies and programmes; and (f) enhancing national protection systems for advancing reproductive rights by addressing gender-based violence.

Country	*Original programme period*	*Period approved for extension*	*Reason for extension*
Kyrgyzstan	2012-2016	2017	The Government of Kyrgyzstan agreed with the UNCT to extend the current UNDAF by one year, through 2017, to harmonize it with the National Sustainable Development Strategy, 2013-2017. The UNCT is focusing on promoting sustainable development, peacebuilding, the post-2015 development agenda and advocating for protection and promotion of human rights. The unstable economic situation, the complex preparatory process for parliamentary elections, and Kyrgyzstan joining the Customs and Eurasian Economic Union define the development agenda in the country; they are major challenges that require engagement of UNCT. UNFPA will focus support on (a) reducing maternal mortality and improving maternal health and access to high-quality integrated SRH services; (b) empowering young people, particularly in development policies and in ensuring access to comprehensive sexuality education; (c) strengthening national capacity for advancing reproductive rights, promoting gender equality and non-discrimination, and addressing gender-based violence; and (d) strengthening national capacity for the generation, analysis and dissemination of high-quality disaggregated data to inform decision-making and policy formulation.
Mozambique	2012-2015	2016	The Government of Mozambique and the UNCT agreed to extend the current UNDAF by one year, through 2016, to align the UNDAF to the Government planning cycle. The current National Poverty Reduction Action Plan, 2011-2014 has been extended through 2015, which will allow the UNCT to participate in the national development plan process. In response to the Government's request, the new UNDAF, to be developed in 2016, would take into account and support the priorities of the next national development plan, and be aligned to the sustainable development goals. UNFPA will focus support on: (a) increasing capacity for family-planning demand generation; (b) strengthening partnerships, using evidence to position the International Conference on Population and Development in the national post-2015 development agenda; (c) strengthening reproductive health commodity delivery mechanisms; (d) improving maternal health through interventions focused on preventing and treating obstetric fistula as well as emergency obstetric and neonatal care; (e) advocating for incorporating the SRH needs and rights of adolescents and youth in national laws, policies and programmes; and (f) enhancing national protection systems for advancing reproductive rights by addressing gender-based violence.
Ukraine	2012-2016	2017	Since 2014, Ukraine has experienced mass public protests resulting in government change, bolstered through extraordinary presidential and parliamentary elections. The country has faced armed conflict in the Donbas region, significantly worsening the humanitarian situation, including massive internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. The current Government is the fourth since the beginning of the country programme cycle. Following the signing of the European Association Agreement, the role of the European Union in development assistance has strengthened; however, the need to address the ongoing humanitarian situation decreases the resources available for development priorities. The Government of Ukraine and the UNCT decided to extend the Ukraine-United Nations Partnership Framework 2012-2016 for one year, through 2017, to better align the next cycle of cooperation with the new priorities and needs of the country. Accordingly, the associated country programmes will also be extended for one year.

Table 2

Country programme extensions for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	*Original programme period*	*Period proposed for extension*	*Reason for extension*		
			In-country development	*United Nations harmonization*	*Implementation or other issues*
Côte d'Ivoire	2009-2013 2014-2015 (first extension)	2016 (second extension)	Four years following the post-election crisis of 2010, progress has been made towards more stability in the sociopolitical and security areas, but the country still faces a number of challenges, as the root causes of the Ivorian conflict are not yet completely resolved. Presidential elections will be organized in the latter part of 2015. This will certainly have an impact on all operational activities of the country. The consolidation of peace to support social cohesion among different communities has been strengthened through a number of initiatives: Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Permanent Dialogue Framework, and the provisional release of political prisoners.	In order to better align the United Nations programmes with the Government cycles and the national priorities, the current UNDAF was extended by two years, through 2015. In March 2014, the Government started planning a new national development plan to cover the period 2016-2020. The planning process, initially scheduled to be completed by June 2014, was completed in May 2015. Based on this expanded timeline, the UNCT and the Government decided to extend the UNDAF by one more year, through 2016. Accordingly, the UNFPA country programme will also be extended for one year, through 2016.	In support of the national priorities, UNFPA will address the needs of adolescents and youth, particularly in combatting early marriage and early pregnancy, as well as gender-based violence and female genital mutilation. UNFPA will focus support on: (a) policy dialogue and integration of population dynamics, including the needs of young people, SRH and gender equality, in national strategies and development plans; (b) supporting national data collection and thematic analysis; (c) strengthening emergency obstetric and neonatal care; (d) increasing access to family planning services and strengthening reproductive health commodity security; (e) increasing utilization of high-quality prevention services for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, especially for young people and sex workers; and (f) promoting gender equality and responding to gender-based violence.